when a student killed 32 classmates and staff members at Virginia Tech University. Each one of these horrific events emphasizes the need for common sense gun legislation. Together they scream out for change. As 2007 draws to a close I once again urge my colleagues to help put an end to these kind of tragedies by renewing the assault weapons ban.

''NIMROD NATION''

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the Sundance Channel recently aired a documentary entitled ''Nimrod Nation.'' This eight-part series explores the world of small-town American life through the lens of the town of Watersmeet, MI, and their local high school basketball team.

Small towns have always been an important part of our country's cultural heritage. The communities and institutions that make up small towns are an essential and enduring aspect of the political, economic and social fabric of our nation. Nearly one quarter of all Americans live in rural areas, approximately the same percentage as live in central cities.

With only 1,400 residents, Watersmeet is a rural town in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The town is surrounded by the Ottawa National Forest and the Cisco Chain of Lakes. It is located in a region with a high concentration of Nordic descendants and Native Americans. In an area with not a single movie theater, the residents turn to, among other things, pastimes such as hunting, fishing, and cheering on their local athletic teams.

Director Brett Morgen traveled to Watersmeet in 2004 to film three commercials for an ESPN promotional campaign. There he discovered the Watersmeet Nimrods basketball team. The nickname came from the Biblical king Nimrod, a mighty hunter, fisherman and outdoorsman. The commercials highlighted the team's unusual name, and they sold close to $550,000 worth of Nimrod-brand merchandise as a result of this publicity. Mr. Morgen later returned to Watersmeet to document the Nimrods' 2005–6 basketball season while creating a series about the rural town.

''Nimrod Nation'' uncovers one of the many diverse cultures we have in Michigan. The residents of Watersmeet have expressed enthusiasm about the series. It explores the making of head cheese, talks with the town's older citizens at a local cafe, and covers the community's passion for the Nimrod basketball team. These events are woven together to create a portrait of what life in the Upper Peninsula is all about.

I know my colleagues in the Senate join me in recognizing the importance of small towns to our country, as well as the congratulating residents of Watersmeet, MI, as their town is showcased in the documentary ''Nimrod Nation.''

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD A. LAUDERBAUGH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, it is with sadness that I announce the death of Richard A. Lauderbaugh, a distinguished and admired former legislative counsel and counsel to the Senate Finance Committee, on December 3, 2007. Mr. Lauderbaugh was a recognized health policy expert with particular expertise in Medicare and Medicaid. He served with distinction on the staff of the Finance Committee under the chairmanship of Senator Lloyd Bentsen from 1989 until 1992. During this period, he was closely involved in the development of Medicare legislation that established a fee schedule for physician services and measures to prevent program fraud and abuse.

Mr. Lauderbaugh, a native of Pittsburgh, PA, moved to Washington in 1981 after earning his bachelor's degree from the University of Rochester, a law degree from the Columbia University School of Law, and a Ph.D. in history from Washington University in St. Louis. He was appointed associate counsel in the Office of the Legislative Counsel of the Senate, where his expertise in legislative drafting and his grasp of complex policy issues were invaluable.

Mr. Lauderbaugh also served 2 years as Washington counsel for the American Hospital Association, where he provided legal and policy advice on a variety of issues including health care reform and hospital payment policies under the Medicare and Medicaid Programs. In 1992, he joined Health Policy Alternatives, a Washington-based policy consulting firm specializing in Medicare and Medicaid policy and legislation, as a principal. In this position, he worked closely with a wide range of clients including health facility and professional associations, manufacturers, consumer advocacy groups, and private foundations. On a number of occasions, he worked with my staff in the preparation of a bill to ensure access to emergency medical services. His work on a variety of policy issues contributed to the introduction and passage of many health care bills in the House and the Senate.

Throughout his 26-year career, Mr. Lauderbaugh was widely recognized for his expertise in drafting Federal legislation, for his extensive knowledge of the history of Medicare and Medicaid, and his creative skill in designing public policies. More important, he was a gentleman who patiently helped the experienced or novice staffer or client navigate the complex world of health policy. His dedication to the highest professional standards and his loyalty to friends and family were hallmarks of his distinguished career.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest sympathy to Mr. Lauderbaugh's sister Paula Bradley and her husband William, of Albuquerque, NM. We are grateful for his service to the Senate and for his many contributions to public policy.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY FAUCI

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I would like to take a moment to recognize Dr. Anthony Facui, Director of the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, NIAID, for his numerous contributions in medical research and specifically his work on HIV/AIDS, avian flu and anthrax. Even in a city such as Washington, which is filled with driven and motivated people, Dr. Fauci is a cut above. As Director of NIAID, he has worked tirelessly to lead the fight against AIDS and has been instrumental in shaping our understanding of how this disease works. I am proud to have worked with Dr. Fauci and would like to take this opportunity to submit the following article recounting the remarkable work and career of Dr. Fauci for the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 28, 2007]

THE HONORED DOCTOR

(By Sue Anne Pressley Montes)

Routinely, his gray Toyota hybrid is parked from 6:30 a.m. until late at night outside Building 31 at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda. Sometimes his colleagues leave notes on the windshield that say things like, ''Go home. You're making me feel guilty.''

But Anthony S. Fauci has made a career of long hours, exhaustive research and helping the public understand the health dangers stalking the planet. As director for 23 years of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at NIH, his milieu is the stuff that scares the daylights out of most people: bioterrorism, deadly flu epidemics, the enduring specter of AIDS.

Fauci, who is equally at home in the laboratory, at a patient's bedside, at a congressional hearing or on a Sunday morning talk show, scarcely has time to collect all the accolades that come his way. But this has been an extraordinary year. In the spring, he won the Kober Medal, one of the highest honors bestowed by the Association of American Physicians. In July, President Bush awarded him the National Medal of Science. And today, he receives one of medicine's most prestigious prizes, the $150,000 Mary Woodard Lasker public service award, as ''a world-class investigator'' who ''has spoken eloquently on behalf of medical science,'' according to the Lasker Foundation.

No one deserves the honors more, his associates agree.

''Dr. Fauci is the best of his kind,'' said former U.S. surgeon general C. Everett Koop, 90, who has often sought Fauci's medical advice and counts himself as a friend.

For someone else, this might be heady stuff. But Tony Fauci, 66, has never strayed far from his down-to-earth Brooklyn roots or his Jesuit training, with its emphasis on

service and intellectual growth. Beginning his career in the lab—viewed by many as a backwater of medicine—he soon became the chief detective probing a mystery that would encircle the world. Before AIDS even had a name, he made the ''fateful decision,'' he said, to make it the focus of his research.

''It was a matter of destiny, I think, but by circumstance alone I had been trained in the very disciplines that encompassed this brand-new bizarre disease,'' he said. ''This was in my mind something that was going to be historic.''

He and his researchers would make breakthroughs in understanding how HIV, the human immunodeficiency virus, destroys the body's immune system. Years ago, he assumed a public role, calmly explaining the latest health scares on talk shows such as ''Face the Nation.'' Through four presidential administrations, he has led efforts that resulted in Congress dramatically increasing funding to fight AIDS.

Today, as Fauci helps direct the president's emergency plan for AIDS relief in Africa and elsewhere, he also is leading the fight against such infectious diseases as anthrax and tuberculosis. In his $250,000-a-year position, he oversees 1,700 employees and a $4.4 billion annual budget.

''Fauci doesn't sleep,'' said Gregory K. Folkers, his chief of staff. ''He's the hardest-working person you'll ever encounter.''

The doctor's curriculum vitae supports that assertion. The bibliography alone is 86 pages, listing 1,118 articles and papers he has written or contributed to. (An example: ''The Role of Monocyte/Macrophages and Cytokines in the Pathogenesis of HIV Infection,'' published in ''Pathobiology'' in 1992.) He has given more than 2,000 speeches, rehearsing with a stopwatch to whittle down his remarks. He has received 31 honorary doctoral degrees.

Vacations are seldom on the agenda. Often, his wife and three daughters accompany him to events. This summer, it was the International AIDS conference in Sydney. But he is seldom found sitting by the pool behind his Northwest Washington home. And retirement, he said firmly, is ''not on the radar screen.''

EXCEPTIONAL CHILD

He learned to question early.

It didn't make sense to him when the nuns at his school said that you had to go to church to get into heaven. His beloved paternal grandfather, an immigrant from Sicily, spent his Sunday mornings cooking. What about him?

''I remember going up to him one day. 'Grandpa, why don't you go to Mass?' And he said: 'Don't worry about it. For me, doing good is my Mass,' '' Fauci said.

The experience made him determined to do good through his work. He was 7.

The Faucis lived in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn, above the family drugstore operated by his father, Stephen, a pharmacist.

Fauci's only sibling, Denise Scorce, recalls that he was a well-rounded kid who liked to play ball but only after he did his homework.

''He was very normal in every way, but you kind of knew he was special,'' said Scorce, 69, a retired teacher who lives in Northern Virginia. ''Everything he did was perfect.''

Fauci won a full scholarship to Regis High School, a Jesuit institution in Manhattan. Later, he enrolled in another Jesuit school, the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass.

''The Jesuit training is wonderful. I don't think you can do any better than that,'' he said. ''I always quote, 'Precision of thought, economy of expression.' ''

Although he had an aptitude for science, he received his 1962 bachelor's degree in Greek/pre-med. He took the minimum number of science courses required for acceptance at Cornell University Medical College.

''I was very, very heavily influenced by the classics and philosophy, which I think had an important part in my ultimate interest in global issues and public service,'' he said. ''I was interested in broader issues.'' I always tried to look at things at 40,000 feet as well as down in the trenches.''

ENCOUNTER WITH ACT UP

One of the most dramatic episodes during Fauci's tenure at NIH occurred in 1989, when angry ACT UP demonstrators swarmed his building, demanding to be heard.

Fauci, like many top government officials, was accused of not doing enough to fight AIDS. The tactics were attention-getting: smoke bombs, staged ''die-ins,'' chalk bodies drawn on sidewalks.

''He was public enemy number one for a number of years,'' said writer and activist Larry Kramer, who led the charge. ''I called him that in print. I called him very strong, hateful things. . . . But Tony was smart enough to sit down and talk with us.''

Fauci read the leaflets the group distributed and others threw away. ''If you put it in the context of they were human beings who were afraid of dying and afraid of getting infected and forget the theater, they really did have a point,'' he said.

When police officers moved to arrest the protesters, Fauci stopped them. He invited a small group to his office to talk.

''He opened the door for us and let us in, and I called him a hero for that,'' Kramer said in a telephone interview. ''He let my people become members of his committees and boards, and he welcomed us at the table. You have to understand that he got a lot of flak for that.''

It was worth it, Fauci said. ''That was, I think, one of the better things that I've done.''

DOCTOR AS FAMILY MAN

Christine Grady still laughs when she recalls her first meeting in 1983 with the famous Dr. Fauci. An AIDS nurse who had recently joined the NIH after working in Brazil, she was summoned to interpret for a Brazilian patient who wanted to go home.

Grady was dismayed when the patient responded to Fauci's detailed instructions on aftercare by saying in Portuguese that he intended instead to go out and have a good time. She knew Fauci tolerated no nonsense.

''He said he'll do exactly as you say'' is how she translated the patient's remarks.

She thought she had been found out a couple of days later when he asked her to come by his office. Instead of firing her, as she feared, he asked her out to dinner. They were married in May 1985.

The Faucis live in a renovated 1920s home in the Wesley Heights neighborhood. Grady, 55, has a doctorate in philosophy and ethics from Georgetown, and she heads the section on human subjects research at the NIH's Department of Clinical Bioethics. Their children are also busy. Jenny, 21, is a senior at Harvard University; Megan, 18, who will attend Columbia University next fall, does community service teaching in Chicago; Allison, 15, is on the cross-country team at National Cathedral School.

''He's a goofball,'' said Jenny Fauci of her father. ''He works hard and he does his thing, but he comes home and he's singing opera in the kitchen and dancing around.''

She thinks she understands what motivates him. ''Work is not really work for him,'' she said. ''It's what he believes in.''

And so Fauci will leave for the office before dawn and return home long after sunset. It reminds him of that speech he gave this summer at the AIDS conference in Sydney. ''It was called 'Much Accomplished, Much Left to Do,' '' he said.

TRIBUTE TO SHEILA ISHAM

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to the life and work of one of our Nation's great artists, Sheila Isham, on her 80th birthday.

Sheila was born in New York City, 80 years ago today. She grew up in Cedarhurst, just outside the city, and on an 80-acre island in the St. Lawrence River in Canada, which for years lacked both electricity and running water. She graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 1950 and married Heyward Isham, an officer in the U.S. Foreign Service, and the couple moved to Berlin. There began her path to becoming an artist.

Sheila became the first foreigner to gain admission to the Berlin Art Academy in the years following World War II. There, she studied with Hans Uhlman, a student of abstract painter Kasimir Malevich, and absorbed the works of Wassily Kandinsky.

In 1955 Heyward Isham was posted to the American embassy in Moscow, and the Ishams moved to Russia, where life became very restricted. Sheila has told of having to import several years' worth of food from outside the country, of being watched and followed constantly, and of being unable to meet with other artists or to draw freely. A 2004 profile in the St. Petersburg Times reported that ''once, Isham was almost arrested by a vigilant Soviet officer who noticed that an American was drawing a building, which, according to Isham, turned out to be a center for KGB interrogations.''

But Sheila continued her work. She met George Kostakis, a prominent collector of the Russian avant-garde, including works by Malevich, Kandinsky, Tatlin, Popova, Goncharova, and Larionov, and she traveled through Georgia, St. Petersburg, Yalta, Sochi, and Tblisi to sketch and meet with local artists and writers.

After a few years back in the United States, Sheila and her family traveled to Hong Kong, where she would live and work for 5 years. She taught contemporary arts at the Chinese University, exhibited her work in China and Japan, and studied with a master of classical Chinese calligraphy. ''I chose calligraphy because it seemed to me to be abstract and perfect at the same time,'' she said.

On her return to America in 1965, Sheila began painting, exploring colors and the nexus between Eastern and Western cultures. She would later live and travel in France, Haiti, India, and